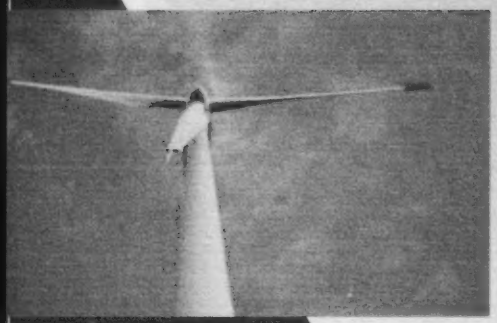
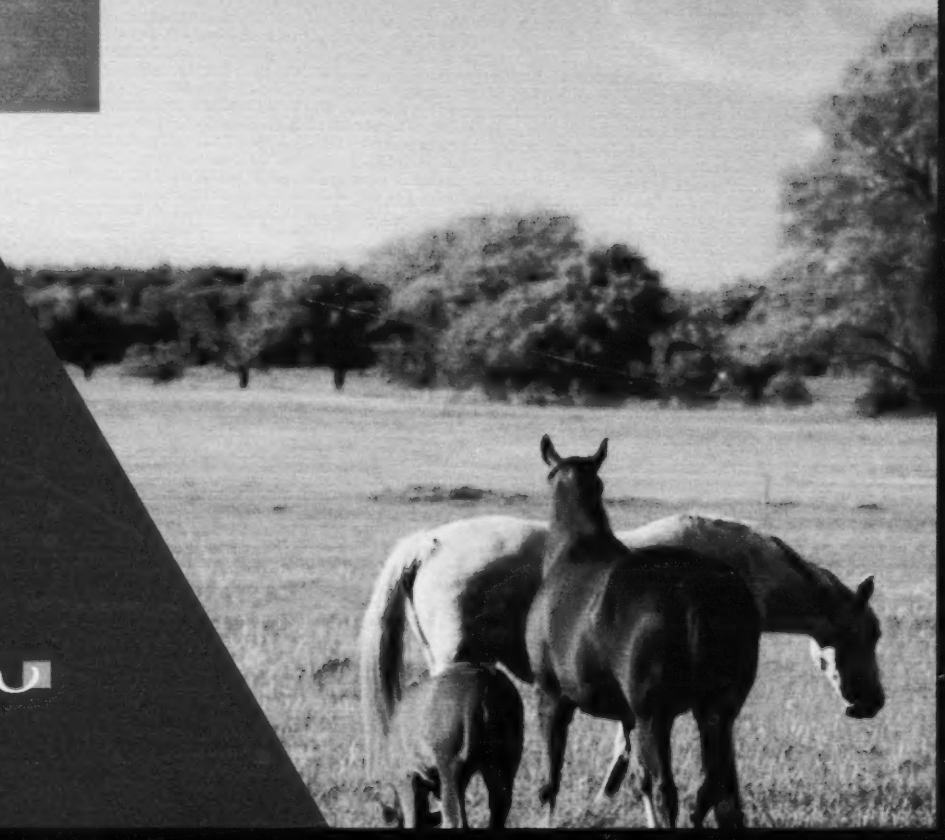
First Nations Development Fund

Building Strong Communities

Grant Program
Annual Results
2014/2015





Alberta
Government

Alberta Indigenous Relations
20th Floor, Commerce Place
10155-102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8

Phone: 780-415-1250
Fax: 780-427-0401
www.indigenous.alberta.ca

To call toll-free from anywhere in Alberta, dial 310-0000.

This publication is available
as a PDF document at
www.indigenous.alberta.ca

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Alberta, as represented by the Minister of Indigenous Relations, 2016.
This publication is issued under the Open Government Licence – Alberta (http://open.alberta.ca/licence)

Contents

3 Message from the Minister

4 Introduction

5 Supporting a Diversity of Community Projects

6 Bigstone Cree Nation

8 Dene Tha' First Nation

10 Grant Program Accountability

12 Horse Lake First Nation

14 Cold Lake First Nations

15 Enoch Cree Nation

18 FNDF Grants by First Nations

19 The Liaison Officer's Role and the FNDF Annual Workshop

20 Siksika Nation

21 Piikani Nation

22 How it Works: FNDF Grant Agreement

24 How to Apply for FNDF Grants

Message from the Minister

Honourable Richard Feehan
Minister of Indigenous Relations
Government of Alberta

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to present the First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) 2014/2015 Annual Results.

FNDF continues to support projects based on economic, social and community development priorities set by First Nation governments and administrations. After eight years of working to benefit communities throughout the province, the FNDF continues to provide reliable funding from revenues generated in five First Nation casinos in Alberta.

The FNDF is an example of how First Nations and the GOA can successfully work together towards common goals. With five First Nation casinos generating funds, the Ministry of Indigenous Relations administers project funding to 46 First Nations, based on an allocation formula.

In 2014/2015, the FNDF provided funding to 325 projects, for a total of $127.3 million, to benefit and support First Nations communities.

I invite you to read the success stories in this report as we all look forward to a bright future.

Sincerely,

Richard Feehan

Minister of Indigenous Relations

Introduction

The First Nations Development Fund (FNDF) Grant Agreement exists alongside the First Nations Gaming Policy to facilitate the allocation of funds to support economic, social and community development projects in First Nations communities. By distributing funds generated in five Host First Nation casinos, the FNDF Grant Program provides support to First Nations and community charities through the Alberta Lottery Fund.

There are five Host First Nation casinos in operation today, that offer employment to hundreds of Albertans and make meaningful contributions to the economy:

- River Cree Resort and Casino at Enoch Cree Nation
- Grey Eagle Resort and Casino at Tsuut'ina Nation
- Eagle River Casino at Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation
- Casino Dene at Cold Lake First Nation
- Stoney Nakoda Resort at Stoney Nakoda First Nation

FNDF is supported by 40 per cent of all revenues generated by government-owned slot machines located in Host First Nation casinos. (See the allocation model on page 22 for a full description of how these revenues are divided).

In 2014/2015, all 46 First Nations in Alberta participated in the FNDF program – meaning that all First Nations in the province received financial support for community-based projects.

Supporting a Diversity of Community Projects

In 2014/2015, the FNDF contributed $127.3 million to First Nations to support 325 community-based projects. This contribution supported dynamic and vibrant initiatives designed by First Nations communities. The projects include:

- $47.4 million paid towards 24 economic development projects
- $54.7 million paid towards 188 community development projects
- $25.2 million paid towards 112 social development projects

The FNDF has paid out over $850 million in grants to First Nations in Alberta, and has approved over 2,000 projects, since its inception.

Total Amount of $127.3 million provided to support First Nations projects

For a complete listing of projects funded by the FNDF go to the Alberta Lottery Fund - "Who Benefits" at:

- http://albertalotteryfund.ca/aboutthealf/whobenefits.asp
- Under 'Agency' select "First Nations Development Fund"

Bigstone Cree Nation

Women's Emergency Shelter
Neepinise Family Healing Centre Initiative

The Bigstone Cree Nation Women's Emergency Shelter provides safe accommodations, counselling support, food and medical care to women and children who are seeking support and escaping violent relationships.

MOTTO - the goals and message of the Shelter speak for themselves:

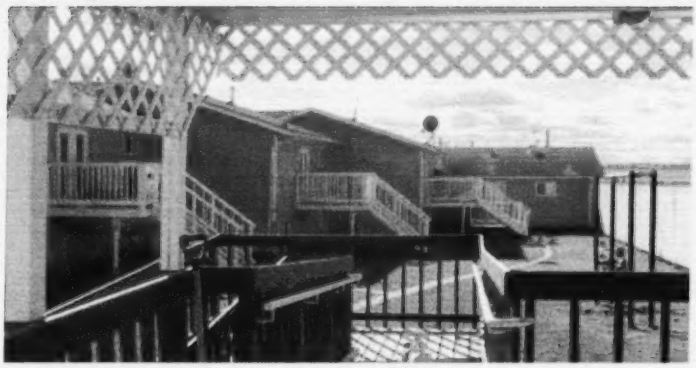
- We give hope where there is despair
- We help to set goals where there are no plans
- We calm the spirit where there is abuse
- We listen when nobody hears
- We give confidence where there is no self-esteem
- We help you to help yourself

Board of Directors, Executive Director and Community leaders

Other programs offered at the shelter include a confidential, 24/7 service to the in-house residents and a crisis line to non-resident members of the community. Second stage housing is also available to women and children who want to make a permanent change toward an improved life. The programs are delivered in a manner that promotes self-confidence, independence and effective decision-making. The program is open to community members and anyone seeking support and lifestyle changes.

Second Stage Housing

For years, the shelter was housed in a small, 1,500 square foot home. The space was just too small and it lacked the area necessary to operate the programs offered at the shelter, including child care.



Grand Opening June 2015

After four years of planning and a lot of research, Janet Gladue was ready to begin a project to construct a new shelter to meet the needs of the community. After directing the operations of the shelter for many years, she felt a new building was needed to help community members heal, to grow, and to provide care to those in need. With a dedicated staff, the construction of the new building began while services and programs were still being offered in the existing shelter.

Neepinise means "summer bird" in the Cree language and the new building was named in honour of Janet Gladue, who will soon retire after a long career supporting women and children to build better lives free of violence. Jennifer Gladue, who has worked with Janet in the past, is now leading the Neepinise Family Healing Centre and providing crucial services to help the community flourish.

Staff at the FNDF would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their hard work, leadership and vision:

Janet Gladue – Executive Director, Neepinise Family Healing Centre
Bernadette Hachey – Board Member
Solomon Yellowknee – Board Member
Paul Beauregard – Board Member
Virginia Cardinal – Board Member
Ida Alook – Board Member
Bigstone Cree Nation Chief and Council

Dene Tha` First Nation

Chateh Market

The vision that guided Dene Tha` First Nation's Chateh Market project is simple and effective: "To develop a community convenience store that provides essentials and daily supplies of food, goods, and gas services to the Dene Tha` community of Chateh, Alberta." The store now serves community members and is located 112 Kilometres west of High Level, Alberta.

Stephen Ahnassay, Director of Infrastructure Services and FNDF project lead for Dene Tha` First Nation, points out that many low-income families and Elders were having difficulty traveling to High Level to buy groceries and supplies. Access to transportation was not always available and it could cost approximately $100, each way, to travel into High Level.

At first, Stephen and leaders at Dene Tha` First Nation, along with the prime contractor for the job, were thinking that it might be possible to renovate an existing structure, that was built in 1970, and make the building work for the new market. However, after careful inspection and some demolition work, it became clear the existing structure wasn't going to work after all.

Working with Chief and Council, Dene Tha` First Nation utilized the First Nations Development Fund to support the project. After eight months of planning and structural design work, the building was ready to go up.

The new 8,904 square foot building was proposed by the contractor. It was structurally sound, safe for the community and met the objectives set out at the initial stages of the project.

Today, the store stands in Chateh, Alberta on the Dene Tha` First Nation. Community members no longer have to travel 112 Kilometres to pick up groceries, hardware, visit an ATM or use a laundromat service: all of these services are now available in Chateh Market.

This project wouldn't have happened without the leadership and vision of Chief James Ahnassay, Councillor Bernard Beaulieu, Stephen Ahnassay, C.E.T. – Director of Infrastructure Services or Krawford Construction, plus the hard work of local labourers from Dene Tha` First Nation.

Grant Program Accountability

Like other grant programs, the FNDF Grant Agreement includes accountability measures:

- FNDF grants can only be used by First Nations for economic, social, and community development projects.
- FNDF grants cannot be used for operating or financing costs of a casino or other gaming facilities or equipment, or for per capita distributions, or for security against loans or debt.
- Every grant application must include a Band Council Resolution.
- The use of FNDF grants must be reported annually by First Nations.
- The Government of Alberta or the Auditor General of Alberta can conduct audits to confirm compliance with the FNDF Grant Agreement and First Nations Gaming Policy.
- The Government of Alberta can suspend the FNDF Grant Agreement and discontinue FNDF grants based on non-compliance.
- A process for dispute resolution is in place and the Minister of Indigenous Relations retains authority for final decision-making.

Indigenous Relations ensures transparency and accountability through audits of FNDF grants to confirm that funds are used for approved projects and comply with the FNDF Agreement.

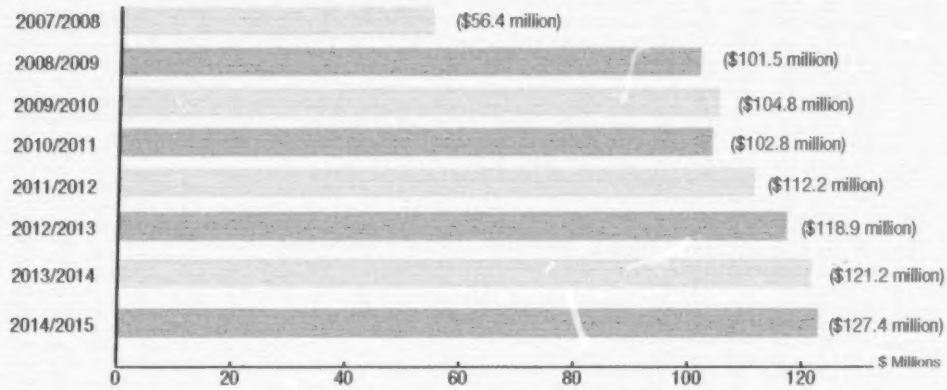
Compliance Audits

In 2014/2015, FNDF completed compliance audits on 12 First Nations, including 73 projects, for the sum of $200.8 million. The audits reviewed the use of FNDF funds according to the terms of the FNDF Grant Agreement. Auditors are available to assist and support First Nations on how to meet financial compliance obligations. They also participate in the annual FNDF Workshop and other capacity building events.

Low Administration Costs

The administration costs to deliver the FNDF program are overed by a portion of the revenue generated from the five First Nation casinos. In 2014/2015, administrative expenses were $1.4 million representing approximately one per cent of total FNDF funds. Administration costs include salaries, benefits, travel, and supplies for the FNDF program staff. The Government of Alberta absorbs

other costs in the administration of the FNDF, such as daily office supplies, office space, utilities, computers, and information technology services, human resource, finance services, accounting services, staffing and other administrative and executive duties and functions of government.



Five First Nations casinos operate in Alberta, three by First Nations in Treaty 6 and two by First Nations in Treaty 7. As 75 per cent the FNDF funds are allocated back to the First Nations with casinos, more funding flows to Treaty 6 and 7 First Nations.

Treaty 6 – Signed in 1876 – covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan and includes 17 Alberta First Nations
Treaty 7 – Signed in 1877 – covers southern Alberta and includes 7 Alberta First Nations
Treaty 8 – Signed in 1899 – covers portions of northern Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Northwest Territories and includes 24 Alberta First Nations

Horse Lake First Nation

Emergency Fire Training

After hearing a radio segment on emergency fire services on First Nations reserves in Canada, the band manager at Horse Lake First Nation, Darwin Eckstrom, felt very strongly that something needed to be done for the safety and security of people living in the Horse Lake First Nation community.

There was a fire department in the community, but the firefighters needed new equipment if they were going to enter the dangerous environment of a building on fire. Not only was equipment needed, but for firefighters to be confident and safe on the job, specialized training was necessary.

Mr. Eckstrom approached some former colleagues to begin coordinating a project and after some negotiating and hard work a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Chief Eugene Horseman and County of Grande Prairie Reeve Leanne Beaupre.

This MOU developed a partnership between the two governments that will last for two years, or until training is complete. The County of Grande Prairie will provide professionally certified National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) training services for Horse Lake First Nation firefighters, and in return, the Nation will be invoiced for certain services.

Chief Horseman is confident that with improved capacity at the Horse Lake Fire Department, they are now prepared to respond to an emergency in the community and in the surrounding area including the community of Hythe. The Horse Lake Fire Department can also serve as a second call and provide support to emergency crews.

Horse Lake First Nation Firefighters and Partners from Grande Prairie

As Horse Lake First Nation continues to invest in the future of the community and expand partnerships with other governments, the future is promising for people of all ages living in the community. The First Nations Development Fund supported this community project with $53,000 for equipment and training purchases.

Cold Lake First Nations

Agriculture Society

Agriculture has always been a central part of Alberta's economy and culture. It is still one of the province's three most important industries, along with petroleum and tourism. The Cold Lake First Nations membership and leaders saw the opportunity and created the Agriculture Society to support local Nation members who wanted to participate in the agricultural industry.

In 2014, the Nation accessed $300,000 of FNDF grant funds to cover the operational costs of the Society. Costs included wages, subcontracting fees, consulting fees, supplies, farming equipment, fuel/oil, and farming equipment repairs. As a result, Nation members had adequate supports and resources to grow feed for their livestock.

Enoch Cree Nation

Enoch Disaster Emergency Preparedness Program (EDEPP)

In the event of an emergency, it always helps to have a plan in place. Thanks to the hard work of the EDEPP team, community members at Enoch Cree Nation are now well prepared in case of an accident or emergency.

The vision of the program has led to a large and important scope of activities. Not only is the EDEPP getting ready through emergency disaster planning, emergency training, participating in awareness events like Injury Prevention Day and by making sure community members and Elders have the information they need to be safe, but the team is also reaching out to organizations like the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), the RCMP, and other communities in the area to align emergency protocols and ensure community partners are all starting from the same place of knowledge.

Collaboration with AEMA staff

According to Jensen Morin, Director at EDEPP, and Eugene Papin, EDEPP Safety Officer, a key to success is being out in the community and spreading the message. Through coordination, cooperation, and communication the program provides effective preparedness and recovery services, and ensures the community is ready to respond to emergencies.

Back in the late 1990s the need for emergency preparedness was recognized in the Enoch Cree Nation community. Enoch Cree Nation houses a hazardous goods route and must be prepared for all kinds of emergency situations, including wildfires, harmful vandalism and trespassing that can threaten the well being of the community. During the 1990s and early 2000s, Enoch Cree Nation planned for emergencies ranging from automated systems failure and business continuity planning to influenza containment and other emergency situations. A gas explosion in the mid-2000s caused Chief and Council to dedicate resources and staff to what is called the Enoch Disaster Emergency Preparedness Program. The original developer of the program, Lyle Gee Joe Morin, built the program from scratch and now serves the community on Council. He remains very involved with the program and serves as a divisional leader.

Starting small with community education and awareness, Mr. Morin developed the original Master Plan. He worked to provide assessments and informed decision makers when emergency situations had the potential to quickly become disasters. Later on, he was joined in his efforts by Jensen Morin, the current Director of Disaster Services.

A key part of the early stages of program development was working with Elders in the community. An Elder's Workshop in the early stages of the program gave the opportunity for Elders to share their concerns and discuss with program staff disaster emergency from their perspective. With time, and the support of Elders in the community, stakeholders, department managers, Chief and

Council and other community members got behind the effort, and continue to show commitment and support through workshop training and annual events. The future of the program is bright and program managers have big plans for further development.

The EDEPP would like to acknowledge staff at AEMA (especially Fran Byers) who has consistently contributed to the program's work. A special thanks to Laura Morin, Trina Vy, and Mechet Charities for generous encouragement and wisdom. Staff also very much appreciate the dedication and valuable skills of their research and technical support, Mary Stacey. This work would not be possible without the commitment of Chief and Council, especially the dedication, input, and encouragement of Councilor Lyle Gee Joe Morin. First Nations Development Fund would also like to recognize the work of Eugene Papin for his commitment and professionalism.

2014/2015 FNDF Grants by First Nation

Grants by First Nation		Total Funding ($) 2014/2015
Alexander First Nation	$	712,320.67
Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation	$	4,731,295.03
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation	$	559,332.04
Beaver First Nation	$	546,016.66
Beaver Lake Cree Nation	$	556,545.45
Bigstone Cree Nation	$	1,539,969.71
Blood Tribe	$	2,214,168.29
Chipewyan Prairie First Nation	$	519,691.63
Cold Lake First Nations	$	5,922,565.22
Dene Tha' First Nation	$	836,971.47
Driftpile First Nation	$	788,969.42
Duncan's First Nation	$	432,359.67
Enoch Cree Nation #440	$	47,874,931.04
Ermineskin Tribe	$	1,064,594.46
Fort McKay First Nation	$	514,118.29
Fort McMurray First Nation	$	497,239.17
Frog Lake First Nation	$	859,888.86
Heart Lake First Nation	$	439,636.78
Horse Lake First Nation	$	555,306.57
Kapawe'no First Nation	$	444,592.20
Kehewin Cree Nation	$	698,384.27
Little Red River Cree Nation	$	1,182,741.99
Loon River First Nation	$	476,180.09

Grants by First Nation		Total Funding ($) 2014/2015
Louis Bull Tribe	$	723,003.88
Lubicon Lake Band	$	464,566.91
Mikisew Cree First Nation	$	842,235.84
Montana Cree Nation	$	539,202.92
O'Chiese First Nation	$	583,642.83
Paul First Nation	$	698,073.76
Peerless Trout First Nation	$	520,311.03
Piikani Nation	$	951,556.85
Saddle Lake First Nation	$	1,502,033.04
Samson Cree Nation	$	1,614,916.20
Sawridge First Nation	$	460,850.32
Siksika Nation	$	1,464,096.40
Smith's Landing First Nation	$	440,410.62
Stoney Nakoda Nation	$	3,525,802.27
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation	$	871,191.89
Sucker Creek First Nation	$	807,085.87
Sunchild First Nation	$	589,372.12
Swan River First Nation	$	583,488.35
Tallcree First Nation	$	583,798.84
Tsuut'ina Nation	$	33,487,645.95
Whitefish (Goodfish) First Nation	$	824,119.43
Whitefish Lake First Nation	$	786,955.10
Woodland Cree First Nation	$	557,473.79

The Liaison Officer's Role and the FNDF Annual Workshop

FNDF Liaison Officers meet regularly with First Nations to provide information, advice, and assistance in planning for the use of the FNDF Grant Program, and work together with communities to strengthen and realize their visions. The Liaison Officers assist First Nations in the areas of:

- Using FNDF within the terms of the Grant Agreement;
- Identifying community priorities;
- Completing funding applications;
- Reporting, auditing, and fulfilling other requirements of the First Nation; and
- Community planning/development.

Since 2009, Indigenous Relations has hosted an annual community development workshop to provide information on the technical, administrative, and delivery areas of the FNDF program, as well as how the FNDF can support wide-ranging community goals. The objective of the workshop is to support and strengthen community advancement for First Nations involved with the FNDF. The workshop is also an opportunity to gather, build relationships, and engage in discussion.

The 2014/2015 workshop was held on Tsuut'ina Nation at the Grey Eagle Resort and Casino on September 24 and 25, 2014. Day one of the session opened with a prayer from Elder Audrey Pipestem and the agenda included concurrent workshops focused on managing stress at work, resolving conflict in the workplace, and providing an information session on the FNDF program. On day two, success stories were presented by Tsuut'ina Nation, Swan River First Nation, and Samson Cree Nation. The stories are a highlight of the workshop as participants listen to presentations on diverse FNDF funded community projects.

Siksika Nation

Post-Secondary Sponsorship

Leadership's vision to strengthen, encourage, and protect post-secondary educational opportunities for the Siksika Nation community has led community leaders to develop a sponsorship program to support post-secondary students. Community members at Siksika Nation have the opportunity to engage with quality courses, programs and services tailored to meet their needs at Old Sun Community College.

In 2014/2015, the FNDF provided the resources for the Siksika Nation Post-Secondary Student Support Program. It supports eligible students to cover student registration fees, tuition, and books. A monthly living allowance is also provided to full-time students based on program guidelines. The program is administered by a post-secondary committee composed of Siksika Nation councillors, Elders, and band members who live on and off-reserve. To date, 77 students from the Nation have accessed the fund to pursue post-secondary studies.

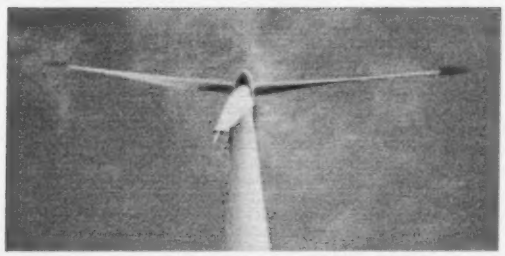
Amelia Clark, President, Post-Secondary Sponsorship Program

Piikani Nation

Weather Dancer Wind Turbin

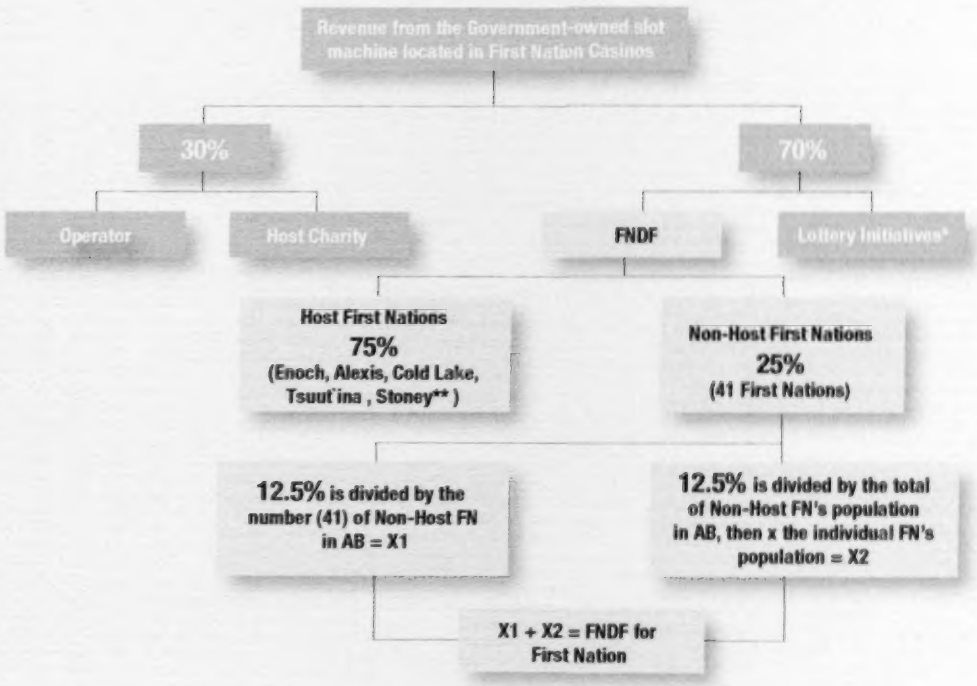
The foothills of southern Alberta are one of Canada's most productive wind energy regions. Wind turbines convert kinetic energy from the wind into electrical power that can then be sold as a means of generating revenue. The Piikani Nation's leadership recognized the opportunity to participate in the electrical industry and through Piikani Resource Development Limited applied for $300,000 of FNDF grant funding to refurbish the Weather Dancer Wind Turbine.

The project served as a stepping stone for the development of further wind turbines at the same site owned by the Nation. The refurbishment included costs for technical labor, crane rental, travel, the wind turbine gearbox and other needed parts. With refurbishment completed in 2015, the Nation is well on its way of generating revenue and they anticipate the expansion of their wind energy component.



How It Works: FNDF Grant Agreement

How revenue is shared – funding formulas

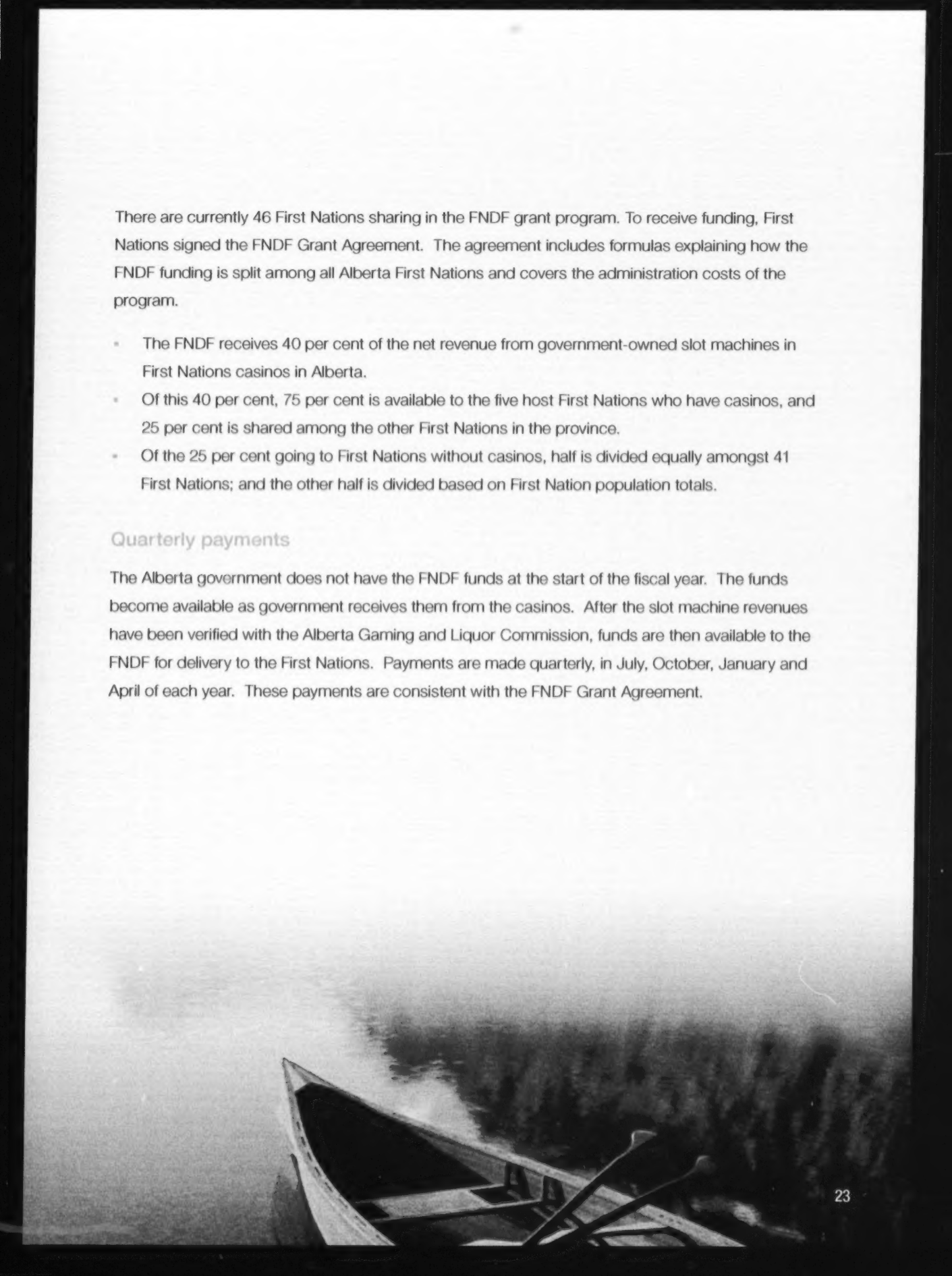

Revenue from the Government-owned slot machine located in First Nation Casinos
30%
70%
Operator
Host Charity
FNDF
Lottery Initiatives*
Host First Nations
75%
(Enoch, Alexis, Cold Lake, Tsuut'ina , Stoney**)
Non-Host First Nations
25%
(41 First Nations)
12.5% is divided by the number (41) of Non-Host FN in AB = X1
12.5% is divided by the total of Non-Host FN's population in AB, then x the individual FN's population = X2
X1 + X2 = FNDF for First Nation

There are currently 46 First Nations sharing in the FNDF grant program. To receive funding, First Nations signed the FNDF Grant Agreement. The agreement includes formulas explaining how the FNDF funding is split among all Alberta First Nations and covers the administration costs of the program.

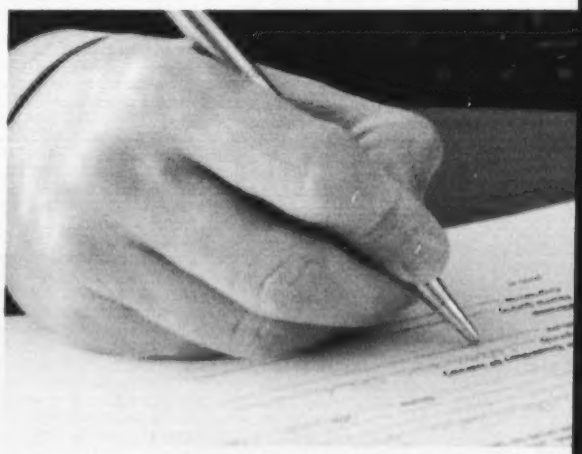
- The FNDF receives 40 per cent of the net revenue from government-owned slot machines in First Nations casinos in Alberta.
- Of this 40 per cent, 75 per cent is available to the five host First Nations who have casinos, and 25 per cent is shared among the other First Nations in the province.
- Of the 25 per cent going to First Nations without casinos, half is divided equally amongst 41 First Nations; and the other half is divided based on First Nation population totals.

Quarterly payments

The Alberta government does not have the FNDF funds at the start of the fiscal year. The funds become available as government receives them from the casinos. After the slot machine revenues have been verified with the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission, funds are then available to the FNDF for delivery to the First Nations. Payments are made quarterly, in July, October, January and April of each year. These payments are consistent with the FNDF Grant Agreement.



How to Apply for FNDF Grants



Recognized Alberta First Nation Band Councils are eligible to apply to the FNDF Grant Program. The criteria for taking part in the fund were decided in consultation between the Government of Alberta and First Nations in the province.

Grant applications must include:

1. A completed and signed application.
2. Detailed project description.
3. Detailed project funding/budget information.
4. Band Council Resolution.

For further assistance contact:

Indigenous Relations
20th Floor Commerce Place
10155 – 102 St
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4G8
Phone: 780-415-1250
Fax: 480-427-0401

To call toll free from anywhere in Alberta dial: 310-0000

The FNDF Grant Program application form is also available online:

- Visit www.indigenous.alberta.ca
- Click on First Nations Relations
- Click on First Nations Development Fund Grant Program

September 2016

ISBN 978-1-4601-2848-0 (print)

ISBN 978-1-4601-2849-7 (PDF)

ISSN 1925-0401 (print)

ISSN 1925-041X (online)

For more information visit
www.indigenous.alberta.ca

Alberta
Government